

WADSWORTH FIGHT IN SUFF CONVENTION

Resolution Thanking Will H. Hays Construed as Approval of Miss Hay's Stand.

PARTISANISM AN ISSUE

Merges Into National League of Women Voters With 2,500,000 Members.

By a Staff Correspondent of THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—By passing resolutions thanking the chairman of the Republican National Committee and the chairman of the Democratic committee for their support in the fight for the franchise the National American Woman Suffrage Association in convention here to-day manifested its nonpartisan policy. This policy was the keynote of a later session when the association, which has existed for fifty-one years, was merged into the National League of Women Voters, with a delegation representing two and a half million members.

Into the Republican resolution many delegates read a deeper meaning. It is so worded that it might be interpreted to mean that the women voters, who are going to align themselves with the younger element of the two parties, uphold those who fight against the enemies of political progress. It means that Democrats and Republicans will be banded together against a common foe. In thus tacitly approving the campaign against a foe to suffrage it was taken by some to mean that the convention approves Miss Mary Garrett Hay's anti-Wadsworth fight.

The Hays resolution was introduced by Mrs. Richard Edwards of Indiana. Miss Rose Young, head of the Suffrage Association's publicity bureau, arose and said: "As a Democrat I want to speak in favor of this resolution. The anti-suffragists accuse Mr. Hays of using his post to have the suffrage amendment ratified. That's no crime. They are fighting Mr. Hays because he stands by Miss Hay, who is fighting one of their leaders, Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr., of New York."

"It's a partisan resolution," objected a delegate. "I hold that it is in the province of this body to thank any person who has done anything for us," Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, chairman of the convention, ruled. "Yesterday we thanked President Wilson and to-day we thank the chairman of the Republican National Committee."

The resolution to Mr. Hays reads: "Whereas, as the leaders of the little group of women known as the anti-suffragists for a decade have helped to defeat woman suffrage by accrediting all who advocated it are now directing their familiar slanders to Mr. William H. Hays, chairman of the Republican National Committee, because they say he has influ-

enced ratification in several States by appealing to the younger element in the Republican party for the support of suffrage; be it

Resolved, That the National American Woman Suffrage Association, with 2,500,000 organized women, congratulates the Republican party upon having a chairman who is astute enough to recognize the certain trend of public affairs and to attempt to lead his party in step with the inevitable march of human progress.

We extend to Mr. Hays our sincere gratitude for any and all help he may have rendered in behalf of ratification and assure him that our members, being progressive women, hope to align themselves with the younger element of the parties of their choice.

Mrs. Edwards then proposed a resolution of thanks to Hon. Cummings, chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Miss Hay and Mrs. Frederick Nathan of New York jumped to their feet to second it.

The question of partisanship stirred the afternoon gathering at which the suffrage association was permanently buried and the National League of Women Voters rose from its grave.

The National League of Women Voters has a membership now of two and a half million, with representatives in practically every State. Mrs. Catt was elected chairman for the organization procedure. Mrs. Hays, W. Wilson of New York city was chosen secretary.

A board of ten national directors will guide the destinies of the league for the first year. They will elect their own chairman. A salaried national manager will have charge of the national work under the supervision of the board. There will be seven regional directors and an executive council composed of presidents of State auxiliaries. Already there are leagues of women voters in many of the States.

Democratic women leaders, who have declared that the National League of Women Voters even now is partisan, objected to any feature of the organization plan which might be construed by them as affording a loophole for the assumption of control by their political enemies. Mrs. Catt attempted to quiet their fears on this score.

The League of Women Voters is going to be a semi-political organization, that is, it is going to want legislation passed, and in order to accomplish that it must be friends with the Democrats of Alabama and the Republicans of New Hampshire. I hope the League of Women Voters will do its work as to teach the nation that there is something higher than the partisanship which is to stand pat, no matter what happens. I have perfect confidence in the conscientious purpose and the high moral outlook of the League of Women Voters."

Mrs. Raymond Brown of New York and Mrs. Mary K. Sherman of Illinois were appointed a committee to draw up a league constitution.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association voted to establish a department of politics at Bryn Mawr College and a department of preventive medicine at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, and to endorse a chair of citizenship at Barnard College as a memorial to Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, one of the association's presidents. Mrs. John O. Miller of Pennsylvania is chairman of the memorial committee.

The association held its victory ratification banquet and valentine party at the Congress Hotel to-night. Among the speakers were Mrs. F. Louis Slade of New York, Mrs. Peter Olsen of Minnesota, Mrs. Solon Jacobs of Alabama, Dr. Grace H. Hubbard of Wyoming, Mrs. Richard Edwards of Indiana and Mrs. T. T. Cotman of Arkansas. Mrs. Halsey W. Wilson was cheer leader.

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